

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add the following claims 43 to 49 and amend claims 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 40 to 42 as follows:

Claims 1 to 10. (canceled)

11. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising thermal processing of a hollow glass body, wherein an overpressure is provided in an interior of said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.

12. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, wherein said hollow glass body is a glass tube (2).

13. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

14. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising the steps of:

a) thermally cutting a glass tube to length;

b) thermally opening a bottom formed on the glass tube during the cutting to length; and

c) at the same time as the thermally opening of step b), providing an overpressure in an interior of said glass tube.

15. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

16. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container having a sodium oxide release from an interior surface thereof of at most about 2.0 mg/l of sodium oxide.

Claims 17 to 31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing an ~~at least one~~ alkali compound from said inner surface during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a) to length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and a closed-bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

c) thermally opening said ~~closed-bottom~~ of said hollow glass tube formed in step b) by heating said ~~closed-bottom~~; and

d) partially closing ~~said hollow glass tube at said open upper end~~ of said hollow glass tube with [[by]] a stopper provided with a through-going opening so that an overpressure is produced by constricting a gas flow path through said open upper end during said thermal processing while keeping said open upper end sufficiently open so that an excessive overpressure that would otherwise damage the glass tube is not produced;

whereby contamination of said inner surface by said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound during said thermal processing is at least reduced.

33. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 32, wherein said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound evaporates during said thermal processing and said thermal processing takes place by heating with flames and/or with jet flames.

34. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 32, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube and subsequently melting through said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical

orientation at a position corresponding to a height of said small glass container in order to form said small glass container.

35. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 32, wherein said small glass container is a bottle or an ampoule.

36. (currently amended) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing an at least one alkali compound from said inner surface during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a) to length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and a closed-bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

c) thermally opening said closed-bottom of said hollow glass tube formed in step b) by heating said closed-bottom; and

d) blowing gas into the hollow glass tube through said open upper end of said hollow glass tube so that an overpressure is produced during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

so that contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube with said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound is at least reduced.

37. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound evaporates during said thermal processing and said thermal processing takes place by heating with flames and/or with jet flames.

38. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 36, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube and subsequently melting through said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation at a position corresponding to a height of said small glass container in order to form said small glass container.

39. (previously presented) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said small glass container is a bottle or an ampoule.

40. (currently amended) A method of at least reducing contamination of an inner surface of a hollow glass tube by deposition of an ~~at least one~~ alkali compound during thermal processing, said hollow glass tube having an open upper end and an inner surface, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound from said inner surface during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube; and

b) partially closing said ~~hollow glass tube at said open upper end of said~~
hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a) with ~~[[by]]~~ a
stopper provided with a through-going opening so that an overpressure is
produced by constricting a gas flow path through said open upper end during
said thermal processing while keeping said open upper end sufficiently open so
that an excessive overpressure that would otherwise damage the glass tube is
not produced;

whereby said contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube
by deposition of said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound during said thermal processing
is at least reduced because of said overpressure produced in said hollow glass
tube.

41. (currently amended) The method as defined in claim 40, further comprising
thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation to
length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and ~~a closed~~ bottom of said
hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation and then thermally opening
~~said closed~~ bottom of said hollow glass tube by heating said ~~closed~~ bottom.

42. (currently amended) A method of at least reducing contamination of an inner
surface of a hollow glass tube by an ~~at least one~~ alkali compound during thermal
processing, said hollow glass tube having an open upper end and an inner
surface, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said

inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said at least one alkali compound from said inner surface during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a) to length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and a closed-bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

c) thermally opening said ~~closed-bottom~~ of said hollow glass tube formed in step b) by heating said ~~closed-bottom~~; and

d) producing an overpressure in said hollow glass tube by blowing gas into the hollow glass tube through said open upper end of said hollow glass tube during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

so that contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube with said ~~at least one~~ alkali compound is at least reduced because of the overpressure produced in said hollow glass tube.

43. (new) The method as defined in claim 42, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube and subsequently melting through said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation at a position corresponding to a height of a small glass container in order to form said small glass container.

44. (new) The method as defined in claim 32, wherein said alkali compound is

Na₂O.

45. (new) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said alkali compound is Na₂O.

46. (new) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface, said hollow glass tube consisting of glass with a glass composition, in percent by weight on an oxide basis, comprising SiO₂, 75; B₂O₃, 10.5; Al₂O₃, 5; Na₂O, 7; CaO, 1.5; and BaO, << 1;

b) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said Na₂O from said inner surface during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

c) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step b) to length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and a bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step b);

d) thermally opening said bottom of said hollow glass tube formed in step c) by heating said bottom; and

e) partially closing said open upper end of said hollow glass tube with a stopper provided with a through-going opening so that an overpressure is produced by constricting a gas flow path through said open upper end during said thermal processing while keeping said open upper end sufficiently open so

that an excessive overpressure that would otherwise damage the glass tube is not produced;

whereby contamination of said inner surface by said Na_2O released from the inner surface during said thermal processing is at least reduced.

47. (new) The method as defined in claim 46, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube and subsequently melting through said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation at a position corresponding to a height of said small glass container in order to form said small glass container.

48. (new) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface, said hollow glass tube consisting of glass with a glass composition, in percent by weight on an oxide basis, comprising SiO_2 , 75; B_2O_3 , 10.5; Al_2O_3 , 5; Na_2O , 7; CaO , 1.5; and BaO , $\ll 1$;

b) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said Na_2O from said inner surface during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

c) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step b) to length, thereby forming a tube piece for discard and a bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation;

d) thermally opening said bottom of said hollow glass tube formed in step
c) by heating said bottom; and

e) blowing gas into the hollow glass tube through said open upper end of
said hollow glass tube so that an overpressure is produced during said thermal
processing of said hollow glass tube;

so that contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube with
said alkali compound is at least reduced.

49. (new) The method as defined in claim 48, further comprising forming a
container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube and subsequently
melting through said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation at a
position corresponding to a height of said small glass container in order to form
said small glass container.